

The Rebel

The East Bay's Uncompromising Assault On Class Society

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County Health On The Chopping Block To Pay For Police?

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In Contra Costa County the District Attorney, Bob Kochly, is running out of money. He has gone before the Contra Costa County Supervisors to tell them that if his department remains underfunded he will not be able to prosecute misdemeanor crimes.

Misdemeanors are the less serious, usually non-violent, crimes that you can be arrested for. This includes small amounts of drug possession, shoplifting, petty theft, traffic violations, vandalism and trespassing.

May 4th was the day that this was supposed to take effect, but it has been pushed back until September. At which point it will be reviewed as will the availability of county money.

One of the ways that has been mentioned to assist in paying for this has been to cut into county medical benefits given to poor people. A news report on CBS 5 said that it would be cutting medical that is provided to "some people". We can all guess who those people are.

In the midst of an economic crisis the county seems to be attempting to pull money from anywhere it can get it.

They have laid off 56 Sheriff deputies, nearly 20 prosecutors and have canceled non emergency health care for undocumented people.

The same CBS 5 news report also stated that Sheriff patrols would be reduced by 50% in some areas and that residents in fringe areas such as Discovery Bay should be prepared for longer wait times.

It seems that the County is attempting a fire sale, where everything must go. Without satisfactory health care we will see more working class people getting and remaining sick. Meanwhile the County will give those funds to District Attorneys, who make \$250,000 a year, and to police departments like Antioch, who are now in two lawsuits for racist police actions.

Essential services to working class people will probably be the first programs on the chopping block to go as the rich demons play monopoly with our lives.

This is more proof as to why we should be better to our neighbors and organize our neighborhoods in the best ways that we can, without depending on police and the state.

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May 1st, Large Group Attacks Banks And High Dollar Stores In SF's Union Square

communiqué

[kuh-myoo-ni-key]

noun

an official bulletin or communication, usually to the press or public.

"Anonymous communiques posted to www.indybay.org report that on the evening on May 1st approximately fifty people marched through the streets surrounding Union Square in San Francisco. Blockades were made in the streets with trash cans and news stands. Windows of numerous businesses were smashed including those of De Beers, Prada, Coach, Tumi, Wells Fargo, Longchamp, Macy's, Armani, Crate and Barrel, Montblanc, Urban Outfitters, and Guess. Chants of "anti-Capitalista" and "fuck the state" were yelled while participants threw out fake \$100 bills. Paint and water balloons were thrown into downtown businesses, damaging merchandise in the stores. According to the reports, the action was planned without the use of electronic media such as websites or cell phones and was completed within a matter of about ten minutes. The 100 block of Grant Street appeared to be the hardest hit. Corporate media has reported that the total damage was upwards of \$50,000. No arrests have yet been reported."-www.indybay.org

As the news has reported on what happened on May 1st in San Francisco words like "senseless" and "vandal" have repeatedly been used. Were these attacks truly senseless? Or was their a point to be made?

"But here we are, we've drained our supply of delusions, we've hit rock bottom and are totally broke, or buried in debt."

Since this ridiculous bailout we have really started to see what has been behind the curtains. The largest and most trusted companies were the ones who were causing the most damage to working class people. The money that companies have been given have even been called "Golden Parachutes", because they receive no harm. Many of the Middle Class people in the United States secretly shop at thrift stores now, they apply for food stamps in secret and shudder when the cashier at the Safeway asks "Debit or Credit?" and they bow their then quietly respond with "EBT".

Us poor people have lived with this reality for our entire lives.

Many people are being forced to realize that the economy doesn't care about them or their families. Many of the youth are affected by the plummeting economy as well. College tuitions are going up, jobs are hard to find and many of us continue to be written off as thugs.

We are the abandoned children of Capitalism, so it is no surprise that we would rather see our graffiti on the buses and BART trains, rather than the advertisements of cell phone companies, or another police force looking for new recruits.

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Antioch Police Sued ,Again, For Harassing Section 8 Tenants And Assaulting Landlord

“The Patras family lawsuit called "Riaz Patras v. City of Antioch," is the third lawsuit filed against CAT, since it was formed in July 2006.”

On April 30, 2009, a family of Section 8 landlords in Contra Costa County have filed suit against the City of Antioch and several members of it's Police Department, for violating their civil rights. Antioch is around 40 miles east of San Francisco.

The lawsuit filed in San Francisco's U.S. District Court for Northern California, alleges that members of the Antioch Police Department used rough and illegal tactics to force the landlords to evict their Section 8 tenants, many of whom are African-Americans.

The suit also alleges that the Riaz Patras family has been targeted by the City of Antioch through it's Police Department because they rented their properties to Section 8 families.

The plaintiffs, Riaz, Maryam, and Mark Patras of Antioch, own numerous homes in the city which they have rented out to Section 8 families, and they are suing the City of Antioch and four members of it's Police Department in federal court for civil rights violations, including loss of rental income, emotional distress, humiliation and loss of privacy.

Documents filed in court outlines how police members of the specially formed "Community Action Team" (CAT) violated their rights, a police unit which the family alleges tried to intimidate them into evicting their Section 8 families from their housing in Antioch.

"black families are four times more likely to be scrutinized by CAT than are white families."

The officers named in the suit include Chief of Police Jim Hyde, Officer Desmond Bittner, Sergeant Mitch Schwitters, Officer W. N. Dillard, and Officer Steven Soares.

The Community Action Team (CAT) was formed in July of 2006, to investigate problem properties and assists the local housing authority in policing Antioch's subsidized housing sites.

Since it's inception, CAT has faced many complaints by Section 8 renters and as recent as July of 2008, the Antioch Police Department was named in a federal class action lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union and Section 8 renters contending that "CAT" unfairly targets African-American families participating in the Section 8 housing program. Public Advocates, a civil rights advocacy group and Bay Area Legal Aide also involved in the class action suit, released a December 2007, 41 page report that said, "black families are four times more likely to be scrutinized by CAT than are white families."

The Patras family lawsuit called "Riaz Patras v. City of Antioch," is the third lawsuit filed against CAT, since it was formed in July 2006.

"I have been renting to Section 8 families in the East Bay since 1997," said Riaz Patras, "and have never had a problem with them, except in Antioch when the police started paying me visits to tell me that they want me to evict all of my Section 8 families."

"I've owned around 10 to 12 properties through the years, and only own around 5 properties now. Times are hard, and I lost a few properties because of foreclosures in recent years. My Section 8 tenants are hard working families with children who have all been certified by the Housing Authority of Contra Costa County and have been qualified to reside in my rental properties. Their good people, and they've never been a problem."

"I filed suit against the Police Department and the City of Antioch because I am being pressured not to rent to Section 8 tenants, and the cops are watching me very closely. We all have rights in this country, and I have been unfairly treated by the Antioch Police Department because they are trying to force me to evict all the African-American families from my properties. Looking back on what has occurred, I wish that I would have gone before the Mayor and the City Council to complain about the way the Antioch Police has been treating the citizens of Antioch," said Patras

Indeed, as alleged in the recent suit filed in court, documents state that the Antioch Police systematically intimidated, harassed and pressured the Patras family to evict their Section 8 tenants, all of whom were African-Americans. Furthermore, it's alleged that the CAT officers used guns to intimidate, and harassed the Patras family with phone calls, using "Jim Crow tactics," to intimidate the landlord into evicting the Section 8 tenants.

According to court documents, allegedly during May or June of 2007, Officers Bittner and Schwitters of the Antioch Police Department knocked on the Patras family front door, and pushed their way in when Riaz opened the door to see who was knocking. When Riaz demanded to see a search warrant, the officers claimed that they did not need one, and told Riaz that they had arrest warrants for landlords who failed to comply with their demands, which included: 1) The Patras family must stop renting to "black" people. 2) They must evict their "black tenants."

In the court documents, it's also alleged that the officers then threatened to arrest the Patras family if they did not provide the officers with the social security numbers of their Section 8 renters, their lease agreements, the number of people residing in each of their rental properties, information if any about the criminal history of the tenants, and employment information.

The court documents provides more details as to how Riaz Patras allegedly refused to provide the cops with any information being demanded of him, as he told them to contact the local housing authority for that type of information, including how the cops in anger allegedly roughed him up and handcuffed him on the spot in his own home, and how one of the cops went upstairs to search Riaz's office while he was handcuffed.

The suit alleges that Officers Bittner and Schwitters of the Antioch Police Department, came to the Patras home a total of 6 occasions to pressure the Patras family to evict the "black" Section 8 tenants, and threatened the Patras family with criminal and civil actions if they did not comply.

In addition, it's alleged in the suit that the officers came back to search the Patras home a second time, including the adjoining garage and filing cabinets, all without a search warrant or consent of the Patras family, and allegedly the cops threatened to arrest Riaz Patras if he interfered with their search.

During a May 12, phone call with Matthew Kumin a civil rights advocate and one of the attorneys representing the Patras family, he said, "I am horrified by what is going on with the police in Antioch, and what has happened to the Patras family. The cops are going to claim that the Section 8 tenants behaved poorly, and that their just doing their job. But, I believe that the cops are going after the Section 8 tenants for being black. The real story is how the citizens of Antioch are supporting the police in their efforts to run "black" families out of Antioch," said attorney Kumin.

In addition, in a May 1st release, Kumin says, “It’s unfortunate and tragic that more than 40 years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act we still see systematic and racially-motivated tactics by a city police department. Even in the Bay Area, it’s surprising that institutionalized racism continues.”

Around 4.7 million seniors, peoples with disabilities, and low-income families are assisted by rental subsidies through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program across the nation.

The Patras lawsuit will be back in federal court on September 14, and is numbered Case No. CV-09-1891.

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NO JUSTICE
NO PEACE
FUCK THE POLICE

On Police: Modesto Anarcho #11

www.myspace.com/modanarcho

Many of our detractors will claim that we simply "hate police," based solely on who they are as people. These critics miss the point of our critique (criticism) about the role of police and the function that they serve in upholding the inequalities that exist between the exploited and the dispossessed and those that own and control this system. Having said that, we, like the majority of poor, working and oppressed people, know from experience that our day to day interactions with the police are far from "nice" or "enjoyable." They are the force that deports your family from this country. They are the ones that help evict you from your home if you become foreclosed on. The cops are the force that will police your picket line if you go on strike, arrest you for shoplifting food, stop you from putting up graffiti and political posters, imprison you for squatting a vacant home, pull you over and give you a ticket and so on, forever.

Police often are not "nice people", nor are they pleasant to be around while they are "working." Perhaps this is because they spend their working hours using violence to make people do things they don't want to do and are hated for it. Perhaps this is also why police have such a high suicide and spousal abuse rate. So, while as people they may be just as nice as your friends that you have a beer and shoot the shit with, as a force within society, they exist to uphold the inequalities that keep the rich in power and us powerless. Police are a force of class rule. They are the occupied army that stalks our streets.

“Sure they have guns, but we have the numbers. Sure they can try and stop us from taking back what we need to survive, but they also aren't hungry for *life over survival* like we are.”

When we critique police, decry them as pigs, and call for their abolition, we do not do so as part of some juvenile hatred for the police. We do this out of an understanding that those who have power to murder us and get away with it play a role in this society that benefits our enemies. It's not that we hate you dear officer, it's just that as long as you point that gun in our direction and not at the real monsters in this society-you'll always be our enemy.

And our enemies are growing stronger. They are shutting down schools and building prisons. They are equipping their forces with more surveillance and more tasers. They are cracking down on those who would loot and steal from corporations to get food and stopping those who would take over vacant buildings for housing. But, with control and oppression comes an equal reaction. A cop in West Side (Modesto) recently found this out when he approached a group of people who gathered around a man who was caught stealing a car and cried, "I can kill all of you right now!" He then was punched, had bottles thrown at him, and then had his walkie talkie broken and then told he "wasn't getting out of there alive." Sure they have guns, but we have the numbers. Sure they can try and stop us from taking back what we need to survive, but they also aren't hungry for life over survival like we are. When the jailer dies, the jail also dies. Everyday, we grow more tired of *this* prison.

“De Beers, Prada, Coach, Tumi, Wells Fargo, Longchamp, Macy's, Armani, Crate and Barrel, Montblanc, Urban Outfitters and Guess were all targeted for all kinds of boring ass political shit, but primarily because fuck them. Exploitation is the norm of economic activity, not the exception. We see no need to reveal our laundry list of grievances and solidarity. The mission was made clear: an attack on wealth that would leave its mark.”

From Page 1

Every moment on the news we are scared by swine flu, SARS, avian bird flu, y2k, bankrupt banks, bottomed out social security and terrorist alerts, so it becomes no wonder why the youth of today would possibly put no value in the future, because the future puts little faith or value in us.

"We have to see that the economy is not "in" crisis, the economy itself is crisis."

How much more paranoid do they expect us to get? We are a society of hypochondriacs, we always think we're sick. Late night commercials ask questions like "Do you feel sad?" "Do you feel alone?". They then introduce the newest anti-depressant, that has a longer list of side effects than it does benefits, without realizing that many of us are sad and that many of us are alone, we don't need medication, we need friends.

We are hysterical.

Society is now at war with itself.

"But what is really being attacked is the future of the situation. The possibility that behind every grocer, a few bad intentions are hiding, and behind every thought, the act that it calls for."

Lets bring this back to the original topic.

The absolute most expensive stores in San Francisco are all attacked by a group of 50-75 people. Windows were smashed out, but nothing was taken.

I will not waste the time defending these stores, they are stores.

While they sell \$8,000.00 coats the employees selling them make \$12.00 an hour, the people in factories making them, make even less.

They have everything, and we are dwindling down to having nothing.

So rather than explaining why someone would want to destroy a Macy's or a Gucci store, I think the more appropriate question is "Why would we care?".



Contra Costa County Sheriff Department Collapses After Incident



On Saturday, May 9th, Contra Costa Sheriffs shot a 37 year old man ,reported to be suicidal, to death. He was carrying a BB gun. After this incident the five cops involved had to be taken off of duty because of officer involved shooting protocol. Ten other cops were also held for questioning.

This set into motion a chain of events that displayed the weakness of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department in the midst of this economic crisis.

At the time of the shooting, the county had (only) one two-man car for 750 square miles, said Jim Bickert, president of Contra Costa County Deputy Sheriff's Association.

"If that shooting in Oakley goes down and then there's a robbery, or a shooting or a murder in Richmond, we'd be impotent to handle that appropriately," he said.

The departments were so short-staffed they sent three jail deputies from their shifts and to street patrols.

Capt. Mike Newman, who oversees the county's three jails, said the facilities are already at minimum staffing. When the three deputies left, the jails were mandated to enter lockdown status.

"As evidenced from what occurred that evening, we're short-handed. We're way too thin and we have safety issues out there and in here," Newman said. "How do I cope with it? Very carefully."

Meanwhile, the dispatch center delayed responses to 35 emergency calls during the six hours it managed the shooting.

Since the reduced night shifts, Fawell said dispatchers have seen twice the usual number of complaints from callers upset with slow response times and twice the number of delayed emergency call responses.

"As evidenced from what occurred that evening, we're short-handed. We're way too thin and we have safety issues out there and in here"

"All this is a perfect storm set of problems happening at a time when the streets are getting a lot more dangerous," Fawell said. "People seem to be resorting to violence much sooner than they used to. It's a very challenging time."

Newman said he was worried about how his department would staff a disaster. "When you're out of pitchers in a major league game, you can't go to the bullpen," Newman said. "There's nobody there."

The police are weak, they have very few police on duty and this gives us ,who have to do shady things to get by, more leverage. It also allows us to create opportunities that can tie police up if people wanted to do something like do a mass walkout with food from a grocery store.

This also means that police can't be there whenever we call them, so we should begin to talk to our neighbors and figure out ways to stop relying on police. This can start by talking to the people around you about ways to deal with smaller issues, so that police aren't called and also figuring out how to handle more serious situations.

It is key that we figure out ways to take back the control of our own neighborhoods away from police so we can begin to live in areas without them.

This instability proves that if there were to be multiple confrontations with police, in this county, that the people would have the upper hand and this makes us feel powerful.

The Rebel

We stand as a crew of friends who want to make our neighborhoods our own.

We are against Capitalism, a system that continues itself by taking advantage of working class people, environmental destruction and wage slavery. We do not have a problem with work, we do have a problem with working to make rich people better off, we want our work to better the neighborhoods and communities that we live in.

We are against Police. The Police are the protectors of capitalism, they protect the gap between rich and poor. If we seek to close that gap, we will have to be at ends with Police. We understand that though individuals who choose to be officers may be kind hearted, their institutional role as protectors of capitalism, and of the rich, is in direct opposition with what we want. They protect the system that destroys the lives of millions, so we say that they are equally as monstrous and atrocious as the system that they undeniably protect.

We are against government. This is not to say that we are against organization. Government controls people by means of violence, oppression, homophobia, sexism, racism and classism. This government seeks to continue to control us, whether it be by way of the racist border guards between Mexico and California, or the armed police that stand guard at local high schools.

We seek to organize our own neighborhoods in aims to make police obsolete.

We will not negotiate.

We also understand that every time Liberals have attempted to negotiate with the current order they have been ignored, or made ineffective. That is why we will not follow their model of resistance.

Government and capitalism are connected.

Capitalism needs government to protect it and government needs capitalism to empower it. We attack both.

We must gain power ourselves by creating community and understanding that any social change happens through the struggle of all that are effected.

The Rebel is an extension of The Antioch Arrow, which is a locally based Anarchist publication and crew that seeks the destruction of this oppressing and imprisoning world that has been made reality.

**We say fuck the rich.
Fuck the police.
Fuck the State.**

Both The Rebel and The Antioch Arrow are free of charge.

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